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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder Visits UMSL To Support Governor Blunt's 2006 Education Budget Proposals**

*Program proceeds go to Military Families Fund*

**St. Louis, Missouri-** Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder today spoke to St. Louis area education and business leaders in support of Governor Blunt's 2006 proposed education spending increases. Lt. Governor Kinder spoke at the Millennium Student Center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus Friday morning to highlight an increase of \$17.1 million dollars for Missouri colleges and universities. Kinder also spoke about his commitment and support for education in Missouri.

"A proposed increase of over \$184 million in education funding by Governor Blunt is proof that a growing and healthy state economy is the best friend our schools, colleges and universities could ever have" said Lt. Governor Kinder. He added, "The tough choices made in last years budget have cleared the way for increases of \$167 million in public school funding and of \$17.1 million for our colleges and universities. By increasing our support education, we have done what we said we would do and we have set our state's priorities back in order."

Kinder emphasized that the increased spending came about as the result of the actions of the Governor and the General Assembly last year. He commented that the long-overdue passage of Tort Reform and revisions to the Workers Compensation System in 2005, have had the desired effects on the state's economy and we are now seeing the results of efficient and accountable state government. The Governor's budget now goes before the General Assembly for consideration.